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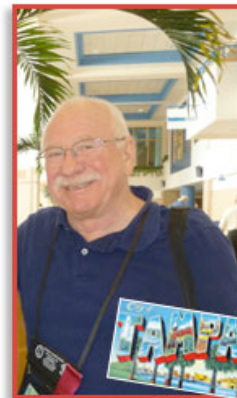
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A Word From Tim Downs - July GS28 | A Family Reunion



Dear Friends,

Avery Post, former President of the United Church of Christ, once described the UCC as a "heady exasperating mix...." Every two years this "mix" gathers to do business, worship, offer a witness to the world, and have a family reunion. Our reunion took place in Tampa, Florida at the beginning of July, with seven delegates from the Southeast Conference and over 50 visitors.



In the bigger picture of the United Church of Christ, we bid thanks and farewell to three members of the Collegium of the denomination: Edith Guffey, who has served as the Associate General Minister; Steve Sterner, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries; and Callie Rogers-Witte, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries. They will be succeeded respectively by Mark Clark, a lay leader from Southwest Conference, Ben Guess, who had led the publishing and communication ministry of the UCC, and James Moos, a local church pastor from North Dakota with a long interest in global ministry. The Synod also approved the proposal for a unified governance model described as a "missional model for us to do ministry in a post-modern world." The proposal will now be submitted to the 38 conferences for their approval. The highlight of the worship services for us from the Southeast Conference was the closing service at which our own Elizabeth Clement preached, filling the room with the power of her singing voice and the eloquence of her vision.

As noted, we gathered for witness as well. Associate Conference Minister, Kathy Clark, our former Associate Conference Minister, Joyce Hollyday, Tom Warren, the pastor of Pleasant Hill Community UCC, were a part of a witness For peace, "Fallen is Babylon" exploring the theme of the United States as empire. The gathering met for reflection and prayer at the beginning of Synod, and then at the end, met for a service of "sack cloth and ashes" at the gates of MacDill military base, from which the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been conducted.

UCC News

UCC Newsroom

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

UCC contingent among 5,000 rallying to 'Save Our Schools'

Janice Resseger calls public schools "the primary civic institution in every community in this country." But she fears that Americans have "forgotten why justice in public education matters."



[Click for Walk for Justice Slideshow!](#) [Click for Walk for Justice Slideshow!](#)

There were also representatives present to thank the UCC for our support of the Immokalee workers, who labor in the fields which produce 90% of the tomatoes grown in the United States.

The United Church of Christ is joining in the transformation of communication through Facebook, Twitter, and dynamic web presence. Take a minute to check out the [General Synod and video highlights on the UCC website](#).

Peace,

Tim Downs, *Conference Minister*
[Timothy C. Downs](#)[Timothy C. Downs](#)

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EVENTS CALENDAR

August 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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